

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/627,865

Examiner

Lam P. Pham

Applicant(s)

CUK, NIKOLA

Art Unit

2612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 3/17/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-45.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Ralph Dowell on May 25, 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 17, line 6: change "the fuse" to "a fuse".

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1 to 45 allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

There is no prior art fairly teach or suggest a fault condition monitoring apparatus (**claim 1 and 32**) for use with a fuse cutout, the apparatus comprising:

a housing operable to be supported by the fuse cutout while a fuse is being operatively held by the fuse cutout, said housing having first and second contacts operable to make electrical contact with fuse contacts on said fuse cutout when said housing is supported by said fuse cutout;
a current sensor inside said housing and connected to said first

and second contacts; and
a signaling device coupled to said current sensor and operable to cause a signal to be produced when current sensed by said current sensor meets a criterion.

There is no prior art teach or suggest a method (**claim 17**) of monitoring for a fault condition in a system comprising a fuse cutout connected between a supply conductor and an electrical device, the method comprising:

connecting to the fuse cutout a housing containing a current sensor, such that the current sensor is electrically connected to fuse contacts on said fuse cutout while a fuse is being operatively held by the fuse cutout; and
actuating a signaling device when current sensed by said current sensor meets a criterion.

There is no prior art teach or suggest a fuse cutout apparatus (**claims 20 and 39**) comprising:

an insulator;
first and second fuse contacts on opposite ends of said insulator respectively, for holding a fuse;
a current sensor inside said insulator and connected to said first and second fuse contacts while a fuse is being operatively held by said fuse contacts; and
a signaling device coupled to said current sensor and operable

Art Unit: 2612

to cause a signal to be produced when current sensed by said current sensor meets a criterion.

There is no prior art teach or suggest a method (**claim 31**) of monitoring for a fault condition in a system comprising a supply conductor and an electrical device, the method comprising:

connecting, between said supply conductor and said electrical device, a fuse cutout having fuse contacts, an insulator and a current sensing circuit connected to said fuse contacts while a fuse is connected to said fuse contacts, said current sensing circuit being located inside said insulator; and actuating a signaling device coupled to said current sensing device when current sensed by said current sensing circuit meets a criterion.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Knapp, Jr. et al. (US 4616207) disclose an electrical fuse holder having Hall-effect current sensor.

Leal (US 4514723) discloses an apparatus for depicting inoperative electrical fuses.

Jackson, Jr. (US 4307369) disclose a high-voltage fuse cutout.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lam P. Pham whose telephone number is 571-272-2977. The examiner can normally be reached on 10AM-7PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel J. Wu can be reached on 571-272-2964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Application/Control Number: 10/627,865

Page 6

Art Unit: 2612

Lam Pham
May 29, 2006.

Thomas J Mullen

THOMAS MULLEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
AU 2612

5/30/06